

USE OF FORCE			
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PURPOSE

To establish guidelines for the use of force by sworn members of the Sleepy Hollow Police Department.

POLICY

It is the policy of Sleepy Hollow Police Department that officers may use only the level of physical force that is objectively reasonable and necessary in the performance of their duties within the limits established by the 4th Amendment of the Constitution, as held in *Graham v. Connor*, by article 35 of the New York State Penal Law, and consistent with the training and policies of the Sleepy Hollow Police Department. The appropriateness of the force used is determined by the “totality of the circumstances” at the moment of the force is exerted.

Every officer must be trained and understand the Use of Force Continuum. Specifically, that officers have at their disposal an escalating series of actions that may be taken to resolve a situation. It is important to note that the Use of Force policy of the Sleepy Hollow Police Department is more restrictive than the limits established by the New York State Penal Law. Officers are not required to utilize each and every level of force in succession order to comply with this order. However, officers are expected to use the minimum amount of force necessary in any given situation. It is the responsibility of all members of the Sleepy Hollow Police Department to be aware of the requirements as stated herein and to guide their actions based upon the above laws and department policy and training.